**What is the Moon?**

**General Statement**

Did you know that the moon's gravity pulls on the Earth and makes the tides rise and fall every day? Our planet Earth has one moon. Our moon is a very long way from Earth. It would take about 160 days to travel to the moon by car. The moon orbits our Earth once a month.

**What does the moon look like?**

The moon is a spherical shape. It is much smaller than Earth. The surface of the moon is rocky and dusty. There are hills, mountains and valleys on the moon as well as craters and plains. A full moon occurs when the sun shines on one whole side of the moon, whereas a new moon occurs when the unlit side faces Earth, making it invisible.

**What is the weather like on the moon?**

Unlike planet Earth, there is no wind or rain on the moon, however scientists have discovered that ice exists there. In the daytime, the moon is hotter than boiling steam, whereas at night, it is colder than a freezer.

**Is there life on the moon?**

No plants or animals live on the moon because it has no air. However, astronauts can survive on the moon for short amounts of time because they wear carefully designed spacesuits and use special breathing equipment. The first astronauts, Edwin Aldrin and Neil Armstrong, landed on the moon on July 20, 1969. They flew to Space in the Apollo 11 spacecraft.

**Summary**

[](http://www.google.co.nz/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=moon&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&docid=CYBj3FfBPpYCCM&tbnid=tJufVCpCUbJRPM:&ved=0CAUQjRw&url=http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/photo_gallery/photogallery-moon.html&ei=_Rr-UbrAAoqqkgXi8oGgDA&bvm=bv.50165853,d.dGI&psig=AFQjCNEHxMWlJaKtRYXPosDl3r169cdNgw&ust=1375693915177130)The moon travels around our plaent once a month and causes the tides to rise and fall on Earth. It would be fascinating to travel in a rocket to the moon like Neil Armstrong did. In the future, tourists might be able to make special visits to land on the moon.